THE NEWS-DISPATCH

Monday, May 12, 2008

Westville Mill Dismantled

Timothy O'Connor
For The News-Dispatch

Monday, May 12, 2008

WESTVILLE - A nearly century-old mill has been torn down and sold for scrap.

The grain mill in Westville, located on Main Street, was once the economic engine that helped build the town. Now, it's going to be a building piece for as many as a dozen new structures.

"At this point we don't know what structure it will go into," said Joe Cannon, vice president of purchasing for Cannon Structure, which is salvaging the mill.

Cannon said the structure's wood will be cleaned up and resold. Other materials salvaged will also be redistributed.

It took five workers about three weeks to tear down the mill. Work was finished last week.

"On the outside, it still looked pretty good," said Austin Miller, a laborer on the project. Inside, however, the mill was falling apart.

The building was used primarily for grain storage but also functioned as a feed mill, said Cheryl Albert, Westville Community Historical Society member.

She was unsure of the structure's age but said it was important to the growth of Westville.

"The railroad at that time ran right across from it," she said.

The building was the victim of shifts toward larger consolidated agriculture operations, Cannon said. It's been abandoned for many years as a result.

Tim O'Connor is a reporter for the La Porte Herald-Argus.